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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Vanino Staging Area

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1. In Vanino, there were many camps, divided into eight zones. All women were in Zone No. 4. The total number of prisoners in these camps was over 20,000. These camps were called peresylka (transit camps) and were the staging area for the Kolyma region.

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Conditions at Vanino were very bad; food was scarce and of poor quality. The camps were full of thieves:

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Every day, people were found dead, stabbed in the side or with their throats cut.

Magadan and Seycham

2. There was an overcrowded temporary camp at Magadan. each barrack containing from 800 to 1,000 people.

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3. The trip from Magadan to Seymchan (N62-53-E152-26) took two days and two nights. There was much snow, but the road had been cleared. There was one small stove in the truck, and the prisoners near it froze less than the others. The convoy consisted of nine trucks, 25 men in each truck.

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Of these men, 125 were sent to Kanon, also called Novyy Kanon; Staryy Kanon was about 40 to 45 kilometers north, farther up the Kolyma River.¹ Seymchan was a center for a series of camps, including Lazo (N 63-13, E 152-10), Third Factory, Elgen (N 62-48, E 150-44), and Zaryanka (sic).

Kanon Camp

4. Kanon was five to seven hours by truck from Seymchan along the Seymchan River; the road went uphill. Administratively, Kanon Camp belonged to the Lower Seymchan Directorate of the Southwestern Camps (Nizhne-seymchanskoye upravleniye, Yugozapadnyye lageri).² The address of the camp was: Khabarovsk Kray, City of Magadan, P. Ya. 383/- [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Camp Kanon was part of Berlag (Berogovye lageri), 25X1
which handles political prisoners. One kilometer away, there was a Yuzlag camp (Yugozapadnyye lageri), an organization which handles criminal prisoners.
5. Camp Kanon had 1,200 inmates, all men and all political prisoners. They were housed in approximately ten barracks. In addition, there was one hospital barrack, one which served as kitchen and mess hall, and one which was a tailor shop (portnaya masterskaya). Some barracks held 50 prisoners, others 200. Among the prisoners, there were about 120 Hungarians, Poles, Germans, Rumanians, Bulgarians, Czechs, Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, West Ukrainians, and about 25 Russians. The latter included Russian emigrants who had left the USSR for China and Manchuria after the Revolution and Soviet soldiers who had been PWs in Germany. There were also Ukrainian partisans and two Iranians. The nationalities were mixed in the barracks. All political prisoners were friends and against the Communists; their common language was Russian. Captain Kozlachkov (fnu) was head of the work detail (nachalnik proizvoditelno-proizvodstvennoy chasti - PPCh).

Lazo Camp

6. There was a camp for political prisoners at Lazo (N 63-13, E 152-10), about 30 kilometers northwest of Seymchan on the Seymchan River. The postal address was Khabarovsk Kray, City of Magadan, P. YA 383/5. The camp held 1,300 to 1,400 men of the same nationalities as at Camp Kanon.
7. Camp Lazo was part of the fifth section (pyatoye otdeleniye) of Berlag and comprised the following camps and installations:
 - (1) Camp Lazo and the cassiterite mine: The first subcamp (pervyy lagpunkt)
 - (2) Third Factory (tretaya fabrika), a cassiterite concentration factory, and its camp: The second subcamp (vtoroy lagpunkt)
 - (3) 23rd Kilometer (23 km from Pyatiletka or Lazo): A subcamp (komandirovka: sic)³
 - (4) 13th Kilometer: A lumbering post where the prisoners from 23rd Kilometer worked.
8. These camps were under the command of one man, Valodchinka (fnu) [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] He 25X1
was not a disagreeable man but very silent and kept aloof from the prisoners.

Third Factory Camp

9. The Third Factory camp was a subcamp of Camp Lazo and was called Camp of the Third Factory (Lager tretoy fabriki). The address was the same as for Camp Lazo, including the P.Ya 383/5. The camp had seven barracks and 1,200 male political prisoners in 1950, but, in June 1953, the number was reduced to about 700 inmates. Some died; many were freed.

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10. The chief of the camp was Major Antipov (fnu).

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23rd Kilometer Camp

11. Twenty-third Kilometer, a subcamp of Lazo, was a small camp of about 200 political prisoners under Berlag. Most of the prisoners worked at 13th Kilometer, in the woods. The installation was set up to provide the lumber for the mines, construction lumber for other purposes, and fuel. frequently trucks go down the road to Seymchan, loaded with logs eight to ten meters long. The country was very wild, and dead bears, mostly polar bears, killed by hunters were seen. Thirteenth Kilometer was jokingly referred to as medvedka (bear hollow).³

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Prospecting Section

12. The prospecting section (razvedka rayon) (sic: not located; presumably near Pyatiletka) was a camp with about 150 inmates, all criminal prisoners. The camp was under Yuzlag and belonged to the Sixth OLP. An OLP corresponded generally to a directorate.⁴ The work of the prisoners consisted of prospecting for new mines or deposits. They would go out in groups of five to 12 persons, without escort, roaming as far as ten to 20 km away from their camp. They were equipped with shovels, picks, and power drills which could only be used when they could be hooked onto a power line. They also carried lamps lit by batteries, as are miners' lamps. When a group reported a finding, engineers were sent out to check their discoveries.

Pyatiletka Camp

13. The camp and cassiterite mine at Pyatiletka were both under Yuzlag and belonged to the Sixth OLP. The camp had about 1,000 criminal prisoners and was located four to five kilometers from Third Factory.

1. Comment: Kanon is probably Bolshoy Kanon (approximately N63-33, E151-25) on the Bolshoy Kanon River.

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3. Comment: This appears to be the same camp as Camp Gulikhari,

4. Comment: OLP a divisional sub-section (otdelenyy lagpunkt). OLP was described as an abbreviation of otdeleniye lagernogo punkta chrezvychaynoezhimmogo lagerya (subsection of a subcamp of an extreme regime camp.)

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